Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) has been constituted to monitor implementation of the report.

Cases pending in Patna High Court

245. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTIC AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in Patna High Court during the last five years in each category; and

(b) the steps Government have taken so far for their early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) As per the information received from the Registry of Patna High Court, the number of category-wise cases pending during the last five years in Patna High Court is as follows:

(As on 30.6.1998)

Civil	No. of pending cases
First Appeal	3808
Second Appeal	2911
Miscellaneous Appeal	1455
Tax	286
Letter Patent Appeal	2570
Civil Reviews	492
Civil Revision	1295
Civil Writ Jurisdiction cases	18265
Other cases	5958
Criminal	
Criminal Appeal	6265
Criminal Reference	12
Criminal Revision	1828
Criminal Miscellaneous cases	2616
TOTAL:	47761

(b) The Government have taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission etc. Conference of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progrss is closely monitored.

Anti-defection Laws

246. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTIC AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the anti-defection law has failed to fulfil its objectives for which it was enacted;

(b) whether it is a fact that instead of containing defections it has caused more defections*, and

(c) if so, what suitable measures are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government would, however, consider giving effect to such measures for strengthening Anti-defection laws on which' consensus emerges amongst political parties.

Reconciliation centres set up by Gujarat Government

247. SHRI ANANTRAY DE VSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has set up a number of reconciliation centres in the State to settle disputes and to lessen the burden on courts;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to pursue other State Governments for setting up such reconciliation centres in their respective States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?